

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

HB 3289 - SB 3350

February 28, 2012

SUMMARY OF BILL: Revises various provisions of the election laws. The bill reduces, from four hours to two hours, the length of time the election commission office must conduct a supplemental voter registration drive at the high schools and it removes the notice provision for supplemental voter registration drives. Authorizes a county election commission to accept a change of address within the county by fax. Authorizes the county election commission office in stand-alone city elections to designate a polling place outside the precinct but within the limits of the municipality. Increases the size of the precinct from 5,000 registered voters to 6,000 registered voters. Authorizes the county election commission to begin training election officials immediately after appointment. Provides additional days for the county election commission office to review the revisions on a filed petition dealing with a city charter. Authorizes the county election commission office to designate another location instead of the election commission office for early voting. Updates language regarding the procedures for comparing the vote totals after the election. Authorizes any municipality with a population of less than 5,000 to use paper ballots instead of voting machines when there is no opposition on the ballot. Requires the political parties to notify the county election commission 90 days instead of 60 days before the qualifying deadline if the party wishes to nominate by primary election. The bill clarifies two qualifying deadlines. Requires a sales tax petition be signed by 10 percent or more registered voters of the votes cast for Governor at the preceding gubernatorial election in the taxing jurisdiction, instead of 10 percent of the total number of registered voters in the taxing jurisdiction on the date the petition is filed.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Decrease Local Expenditures – \$25,500/One-Time/FY12-13
\$16,000/ FY12-13
\$87,900/FY13-14 and Every Two Years
\$17,500/FY14-15 and Every Two Years**

Other Fiscal Impact – According to the Coordinator of Elections, certain municipalities may opt to use paper ballots rather than electronic voting machines. This savings will be realized only if the county has a population of less than 5,000 and there is no opposition on the ballot. Eligible municipalities could save an estimated \$2,000 and \$4,000 per election. Since the number of municipalities that will meet these criteria and choose to use paper ballots cannot be determined, the decrease in local expenditures for the use of paper ballots cannot be quantified.


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Assumptions:

- According to the Coordinator of Elections, counties surveyed estimated a one-time decrease in local expenditures by increasing the size of the precincts from 5,000 registered voters to 6,000 registered voters. The one-time decrease in local expenditures will be \$25,500.
- According to the Coordinator of Elections, each affected municipality will see a savings as polling places serving only a few voters will not be required to open. These voters will vote at a designated polling place within the limits of the municipality. Nine municipalities in seven counties across the state will be affected.
- In FY12-13 and every two years, the decrease in local expenditures will be \$16,000 [\$8,000 (Sullivan County) + \$3,000 (Hamblen County), + \$5,000 (Lake County)].
- In FY13-14 and every two years, the decrease in local expenditures will be \$87,930 [\$1,200 (Coffee County) + \$45,000 (Knox County) + \$41,730 (Rutherford County)].
- In FY14-15 and every two years, the decrease in local expenditures for Hawkins County will be \$1,500. The total decrease in local expenditures in FY14-15 and every two years will be \$17,500 (\$16,000 + \$1,500).
- Under the bill, certain municipalities can choose to use a paper ballot rather than a voting machine. According to the Coordinator of Elections, this could save the particular municipality between \$2,000 and \$4,000 per election. However, this savings will only be realized if the municipality has a population of less than 5,000 and there is no opposition on the ballot. There are approximately 13 counties with approximately 16 municipalities that could qualify under certain circumstances. However, any savings cannot be determined since the number of cities that would choose to use paper ballots instead of voting machines cannot be quantified.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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